

REGULAR MEETING

April 10, 2006

The Regular Meeting of the Annapolis City Council was held on April 10, 2006 in the Council Chamber. Mayor Moyer called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

Present on Roll Call: Mayor Moyer, Aldermen Israel, Christman, Alderwomen Hoyle Taylor, Cordle, Stankivic, Shropshire, Cohen

Staff Present: City Attorney Spencer, Finance Director Elliott

- Alderman Cohen moved to approve the Journal of Proceedings for Special Meeting of March 13, 2006 Regular Meeting of March 27, 2006. Seconded. CARRIED on voice vote.

STATE OF THE CITY OF ANNAPOLIS

State of the City of Annapolis 2007 Budget Message presented by Mayor Ellen O. Moyer

It is my pleasure to inform you the City of Annapolis remains economically healthy. Our AA+ bond rating continues, and once again we met all audit standards.

Yet we face fiscal challenges. We are not alone. Local governments nationwide are experiencing budget shortfalls.

Fuel and electric costs have increased by 30%.

Despite the aggregation for utilities, our costs outstripped last year's budget.

Gas cost increases strained the city's transportation and refuse budgets.

For too long, public works capital projects were neglected. The past council addressed them, and bills for major needed improvements to Forest Drive, Edgewood Road, West Street, a new water tower and the police station expansion are now coming due. Debt service, together with salary and wage packages for public safety personnel, have established a base budget 8% higher than previous years.

This proposed budget holds the line on expenditures. There are only two enhancements in this budget – the addition of five police officers to increase foot patrols, and salary upgrades, particularly in public works, to maintain a skilled employee force.

The tax rate is set at 56 cents for each 100 dollars of property value.

Infrastructure costs, of course, are ongoing. This administration has chosen to tackle our needs head on. The public expects no less.

The Capital Budget for 2007 includes the upgrade to the Emergency Response Center at the Eastport Fire Station to accommodate new ambulance services, public safety utility upgrades on Fleet and Cornhill Streets, and public safety upgrades to the Second Street force main under Back Creek.

Needed repairs to the failing bulkheads at City Dock will begin, and finally the new Recreation Center, ten years in the making, will begin at Truxtun Park.

Looking ahead – new capital projects include acquisition of open space, and watershed restoration to meet the clean water goals of the Chesapeake Bay program.

The Budget also builds on the goal of the existing Comprehensive Plan to create gateways into the Capital City. Outer West Street, Hanover Street, Bladen Street, Green Street, Fourth and Sixth Streets are only a few of the areas to be enhanced with trees and sidewalks, in partnership with state and private agencies.

While meeting demands for road improvements, refuse and water capacity, I have tried to maintain our pedestrian friendliness and our covenant with the environment for clean water, fresh air and urban open space.

The Bulldozer Era of the past two years is just about over. The signs of construction along Rowe Boulevard will be gone, and the bridges open, by July.

The police station will be completed in September and Taylor Avenue will return to normal shortly thereafter. A new West Street will emerge at Chinquapin as the first affordable housing and mixed use project is completed.

The Market House will open in May, as will the brick sidewalks and new entrance to the Naval Academy on Prince George Street. The new park at Acton's Landing – the old Hospital site – will be complete in June.

Yet even as these sites return to normal, private renovation and restoration will begin at six sites on Main Street.

As I tackled this budget, it is clear that we will continue to feel budget strains in the future. Real and corporate taxes provide 55% of our operating budget or 36% of the total budget. Grants are another 26/17% of our revenue.

State, County, and Federal complexes in the city are tax exempt – so are non-profits, schools and churches. Yet Anne Arundel County is identified as producing the highest visitor dollar impact on the state economy. Approximately \$1.6 billion dollars goes to the state from Anne Arundel County visitors.

Unfortunately, we do not know what portion of this comes from Annapolis. The State doesn't collect the information to define municipal value. I am asking the Finance Department to develop a fiscal analysis of the City's value to the coffers of the State and County. This information will be valuable as we move into next year's budget.

Currently only the State pays a PILOT (Payment in Lieu of Taxes) to the City for services – \$367,000, well below estimated costs of services.

It is not unreasonable to expect fair PILOTs from a number of entities that call Annapolis home and require Annapolis services. Currently the costs for services to accommodate the four million visitors to our State Capital and historic landmark city are borne by the 36,000 residents.

We have to find new ways to share the costs for street cleanup, shuttle services and sidewalk improvements among those who benefit from them.

While we have been aggressive in securing grant money, more needs to be done. Investment in a grantmaster may indeed pay dividends. The next six months will be spent exploring new revenue sources.

This city is rich in talented residents willing to share their skills for free to enhance our quality of life. As we move forward to frame a new vision for Annapolis, I have asked our volunteer boards to develop broad concepts and recommendations for plans to secure open space, to increase our tree canopy, reduce impervious surfaces, enhance our maritime industry and public transportation, prevent drug abuse, define energy efficiencies and land use standards, revise our election laws and update our city code.

But most challenging of all is the "Let's Talk" program - the broadest based public participation for shaping the vision for Annapolis ever undertaken. Government of, by, and for the people was pioneered by the Greeks of Athens 3,000 years ago. And it was instilled in our own Declaration of Independence.

On the eve of our own 300 year celebration of becoming the first, in 1708, municipality in the colony of Maryland, it is fitting we look to our past for those things that have shaped our values and kept us a strong, vital and free people. "Let's Talk" should lead as to deliberative dialogue on the principles we value and enhance government for the common good.

There's an old adage successful people follow – plan your work and work your plan.

The formula applies to neighborhoods and communities. A budget is, of course, a shared plan representing past, present and future actions that shape our quality of life.

It is long range and far reaching, and it is short term, addressing immediate needs, but always shaped by the goals that represent the dreams, standards and values of the diverse citizens we serve.

I believe this budget accomplishes this goal.

AWARDS

Annapolis Fire Department

Captain Scott Baer representing Chief Jerome Smith presented Alderman Cordle, Stankivic and Shropshire with Fire Helmets.

PETITIONS, REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS

Spoke in support of R-15-06

Pasty Baker Blackshear, 2705 Riva Road, Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Gregory Stiverson, 18 Pinkney Street, Annapolis, Maryland 21401 representing Historic Annapolis Foundation

Judith A. Cabral, 2730 Alfred Circle, Annapolis, Maryland 21401 representing Kunta Kinte-Alex Haley Foundation

LEGISLATIVE ACTION

ORDINANCES

O-23-05 For the purpose of requiring an owner of certain substandard residential lots of record to merge contiguous lots under certain in circumstances; limiting the discretion to grant administrative exceptions (tolerances) to established yard requirements; to require any accessory structure having a floor area greater than 1200 square feet or a height greater than 20 feet to be approved as a special exception; to impose a maximum lot coverage limitation of 30 percent for single-family detached dwellings; to include additional definitions in the Zoning Code; and matters generally relating to merging lots and Zoning Code amendments.

- Alderman Christman moved to adopt O-23-05 on second reading. Seconded.

The Planning Commission reported favorably w/ amendments on O-23-05.

- Alderman Christman moved to substitute O-23-05 revised. Seconded. CARRIED on voice vote.

The main motion as revised CARRIED on voice vote.

Alderman Stankivic moved to adopt O-23-05 revised on third reading. Seconded. CARRIED on voice vote.

O-08-06 For the purpose of requiring that pawnbrokers may not transfer or dispose of property for at least 30 days except when redeemed by original pawn ticket; requiring pawnbrokers to release to the Police Department without payment items identified as stolen by the Police Department; and matters generally relating to regulation of pawnbrokers.

- Alderman Cohen moved to adopt O-08-06 on second reading. Seconded.

The Economic Matters Committee reported favorably on O-08-06.

Alderman Cordle moved to amend O-08-06 as follows:

Amendment No. 1

In lines 22 and 23 on page one strike "identified as stolen by the Police Department" and substitute "reported as stolen to a law enforcement agency"

In line 6 on page two strike "identified" and substitute "reported to a law enforcement agency" Seconded. CARRIED on voice vote.

Amendment No. 2

In line 39 on page one after "daily" add the following sentence: In the alternative and with the approval of the Chief of Police, the list may be kept and forwarded electronically" Seconded. CARRIED on voice vote.

The main motion as amended CARRIED on voice vote.

Alderman Cohen moved to adopt O-08-06 amended on third reading. Seconded. CARRIED on voice vote.

O-13-06 For the purpose of amending the configuration of the Annapolis harbor line outboard of Bert Jabin's Yacht Yard at 7310 Edgewood Road on Back Creek; and all matters relating to said harbor line.

- Alderman Cohen moved to adopt O-13-06 on first reading. Seconded. CARRIED on voice vote.

Referred to Environmental Matters Committee

O-14-06 For the purpose of establishing for Special Parking District parking violations the same fines, appeal process and legislative wording that currently exist for other parking violations; and matters generally relating to said parking violations.

- Alderman Cordle moved to adopt O-14-06 on first reading. Seconded. CARRIED on voice vote.

Referred to Public Safety Committee

RESOLUTIONS

R-03-06 For the purpose of providing an exemption allowing the sale of arts related merchandise in the Historic District at the First Sunday events to be held the first Sunday of each month from May through October 2006, on West Street; waiving certain fees associated with City services in conjunction with these events; and all matters relating to said First Sunday events.

- Alderman Cohen moved to adopt R-03-06 on second reading. Seconded.
- Alderman Israel moved to amend R-03 -06 as follows:

On page 2, in line 29, strike "all fees for City services for the six First Sunday events plus the fees" and substitute for each of the six First Sunday events \$625 in fees "

Seconded. CARRIED on voice vote.

The main motion amended CARRIED on voice vote.

R-04-06 For the purpose of expressing the City of Annapolis' support for legislation to amend Article 44A, Title 10 of the State Code to provide that an appointment by the Mayor of a Commissioner to the Housing Authority of the City of Annapolis (HACK) requires the approval of the legislative body.

- Alderman Stankivic moved to postpone R-04-06 until the Regular Meeting of the City Council on September 11, 2006. Seconded. CARRIED on voice vote.

R-05-06 For the purpose of waiving the fees for City services to be provided in connection with the Maryland Avenue Spring Fling to be held April 30, 2006, and the Maryland Avenue Annual Street Festival to be held on September 24, 2006, and all matters relating to the waiver of fees.

- Alderman Cohen moved to adopt R-05-06 on second reading. Seconded. CARRIED on voice vote.

R-12-06 For the purpose of Recognizing Commodore John Barry as the first flag officer of the United States Navy.

- Alderman Cohen moved to adopt R-12-06 on first reading. Seconded. CARRIED on voice vote.

R-13-06 For the purpose of condemning inappropriate ties between the Maryland Public Service Commission (PSC) and the industry it regulates as demonstrated by Kenneth D. Schisler, Chairman of the PSC, in his exchange of e-mails with a lobbyist for BGE.

- Alderman Cohen moved to adopt R-13-06 on first reading. Seconded. CARRIED on voice vote.

R-14-06 For the purpose of approving an increase in service size for the existing extension of City of Annapolis water service to 20 Hudson Street which is located in Anne Arundel County, outside the boundaries of the City of Annapolis; and matters generally relating to said water extension.

- Alderman Cohen moved to adopt R-14-06 on first reading. Seconded. CARRIED on voice vote.

R-15-06 For the purpose of naming the walkway adjoining The Story Wall portion of the Kunta Kinte-Alex Haley Memorial after Leonard A. Blackshear in recognition of his many years of service to the citizens of Annapolis, for his tireless efforts in encouraging racial healing, for his steadfast commitment to promoting African American history and for his leadership in successfully completing the Kunta Kinte-Alex Haley Memorial.

- Alderman Cohen moved to adopt R-15-06 on first reading. Seconded.

CARRIED on voice vote.

There being no voiced objection, the rules were suspended to allow passage of the resolution at the meeting of its introduction.

- Alderwoman Hoyle moved to adopt R-15-06 on second reading. Seconded. CARRIED on voice vote.

BUDGET

O-15-06 For purpose of adopting an operating budget for the City of Annapolis for the Fiscal Year 2007; appropriating funds for expenditures for the Fiscal Year 2007; defraying all expenses and liabilities of the City of Annapolis and levying same for the purposes specified; specifying certain duties of the Director of Finance; specifying a rate of interest to be charged upon overdue-property taxes; and all matters generally relating to said budget and property tax rate.

- Alderman Cohen moved to adopt O-15-06 on first reading. Seconded. CARRIED on voice vote.

Referred to the Finance Committee

R-16-06 For the purpose of adopting a capital improvement budget for the Fiscal Year 2007, and a capital improvement program for the six-year period from July 1, 2006, to June 30, 2012; and all matters relating to said budget and program.

- Alderman Stankivic moved to adopt R-16-06 on first reading. Seconded. CARRIED on voice vote.

Referred to Finance Committee

R-17-06 For the purpose of increasing fees for stormwater utility usage, trash collection, parks and recreation usage, and certain parking and transit usage; affirming without change other fees that will be charged for the use of City services for FY 2007; and matters generally relating to said fees.

- Alderman Cohen moved to adopt R-17-06 on first reading. Seconded. CARRIED on voice vote.

Referred to Finance and Economic Matters Committees

R-18-06 For the purpose of revising the Fines Schedule to reduce the fines for illegal parking on King George Street to an amount consistent with the fines on surrounding street in Parking District #1; to make fines for failure to pay stopping, standing and parking fines the same as the fines for failure to pay special residential parking fines; to reduce the fine for illegal parking on State Circle and for exceeding two hours at a metered space; and all matters relating to said parking penalties.

- Alderman Cohen moved to adopt R-18-06 on first reading. Seconded. CARRIED on voice vote.

Referred to Finance Committee

BUSINESS AND MISCELLANEOUS

1. Appointments

Alderman Cohen moved to approve the Mayor's appointments & reappointments of the following individuals:

4/10/06 Board of Supervisors of Election S. Lee Caudle
4/10/06 Board of Appeals Geoffrey S. Mitchell
4/10/06 Environmental Commission Albert Brown
4/10/06 Historic Preservation Commission Sara Anne Wright Rivera
4/10/06 Severn River Commission David A. Hanson
Seconded. CARRIED on voice vote.

2. Approval of Housing and Community Development Committee's Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Recommendations for FY 2007.

Alderman Stankivic moved to postpone the vote on the Housing and Community Development Committee's Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Recommendations for FY 2007 until April 24, 2006. Seconded. CARRIED on voice Vote.

3. Approval of budget revisions CT-2-06, CT-3-06, CT-4-06, GT-6-06, GT-7-06, and GT-8-06

Alderman Cohen moved to accept the budget revisions CT-2-06, CT-3-06, CT-4-06, GT-6-06, GT-7-06, and GT-8-06 and the Finance Minutes dated March 29, 2006. Seconded. CARRIED on voice vote.

Upon motion duly made, seconded and adopted, the meeting was adjourned at 8:34 p.m.

Regina C.Watkins-Eldridge, CMC
City Clerk